



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Paige Reforms Make Ed Department More Accountable, Too

Today, Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced a comprehensive action plan for putting the U.S. Department of Education's management and financial house in order and earning the trust and confidence of the American public. During the final three years of the previous administration, the Education Department failed three consecutive annual audits, and an estimated \$450 million was lost to waste, fraud, and mismanagement.

At a time when President Bush is asking states and local schools for greater accountability, the Administration is raising the bar for the Education Department at the same time. The American people want to know that federal education funds are being used to improve education, not squandered through unaccountable bureaucracy.

Secretary Paige's efforts to eliminate waste and fraud at the Education Department square nicely with the President's *No Child Left Behind* education reform plan. Both initiatives will help ensure that federal education dollars are spent effectively to help our nation's children.

The Secretary's plan is another positive step toward transforming the Education Department into a high-performance organization that has the trust of the American public. It is hard evidence of the current administration's commitment to bringing new accountability to the Department and ensuring that federal dollars are spent on those children who need it the most.

Message of the Day

Enhancing accountability at the Education Department ensures that federal education dollars help children – the heart of President Bush's reform plan.

- ❑ *The President's plan targets funding increases to students who need it the most, expands local decision-making flexibility, and streamlines bureaucracy.*
- ❑ *Real accountability is essential to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.*
- ❑ *We have a moral obligation to address 35 years of failed federal education policy. The status quo must end.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- According to the General Accounting Office (GAO), 21 Department employees were allowed to write more than 19,000 checks totaling \$23 million without proper approval under the previous administration.
- The lack of proper controls at the Department allowed 141 cardholders to make more than \$1 million in purchases without approval before Secretary Paige's reforms.
- In addition, it was revealed that two employees had monthly credit limits of \$300,000, while others had limits in excess of \$30,000.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"President Bush is asking schools to be accountable to their communities, and it is only fair that the Department of Education should be accountable to Congress and the public." -- **Education Secretary Rod Paige, announcing an action plan to transform internal financial controls at the Department of Education, October 30, 2001**